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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2016/30)*]

2016/18. Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] for States parties to that Convention, and recalling other relevant international legal instruments, standards and norms concerning the rights and well-being of the child, including the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[3]

Recalling the international standards and norms in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, including the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,[4] and the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention,[5]

Mindful of the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),[6] in particular the fundamental principles and the general provisions on prevention contained therein, which, inter alia, place the involvement of children in criminal activities at the core of crime prevention in society and recommend society-wide efforts with a child-centred approach focusing on the well-being of young persons, a comprehensive, multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach to the prevention of the involvement of children in criminal activities and youth crime, and the development of progressive and systematic prevention policies in order to provide opportunities to meet the varying needs of young persons and safeguard their well-being, development, rights and interests,

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[3] General Assembly resolution 69/194, annex.
[4] Resolution 2002/13, annex.
[5] Resolution 1995/9, annex.
[6] General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex.

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Mindful also of relevant provisions of the United Nations standards and norms for the treatment of children in conflict with the law, in particular the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules)[7] and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),[8] and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[9]

Emphasizing the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, in which, the Assembly stressed the importance of preventing incidents of violence against children and of responding in a timely manner to support child victims of violence, including to prevent their revictimization, and invited Member States to adopt knowledge-based, comprehensive and multisectoral prevention strategies and policies to address the factors that give rise to violence against children and that expose them to the risk of violence,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States to implement the Model Strategies and Practical Measures,

Welcoming also the adoption by the General Assembly of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[10]

Emphasizing that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may benefit from support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to Member States in the application and implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, the development and implementation of national crime prevention strategies and action plans and sector-specific projects aimed at the prevention of the involvement of children in criminal activities, youth crime and victimization and violence against women and children, and access to justice and social reintegration of offenders,

Emphasizing also in this context the relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and its targets of significantly reducing all forms of violence, ending abuse, exploitation and violence against children, promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, and Sustainable Development Goal 11, Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, which requires engagement with local authorities to foster community cohesion and personal security through the management and planning of cities and human settlements,

Being aware of the benefit of providing, where necessary, a socially and emotionally safe and supportive environment for the empowerment of young

[7] General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

[9] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

people in order to prevent the recruitment and involvement of youth in any kind of violent crime,[11]

Recognizing the need to strengthen national, regional and international efforts in developing holistic policies and strategies aimed at preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities,

Recognizing also the importance of integrating crime prevention considerations into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, placing particular emphasis on communities, families, children and youth, including those in vulnerable situations, and of encouraging partnerships between all appropriate levels of government and relevant stakeholders within civil society in order to strengthen and sustain effective crime prevention strategies, programmes and initiatives, as appropriate, and promote a culture of peace and non-violence,

Recognizing further the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to countering crime, inter alia, urban crime, by addressing social and economic root causes related to crime and criminal justice,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/189 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue strengthening the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information, and strongly encouraged Member States to share such data and information with the Office, and noting that States should do so while preserving the best interests of the child,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/195 of 18 December 2014, in which the Assembly stressed the importance of encouraging Member States to develop, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, while emphasizing that crime prevention should be an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States, and recognized the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development, recommending that such linkages and interrelationships be properly addressed and further elaborated,

Recalling further its resolution 2015/24 of 21 July 2015, in which the Council recognized the importance and cross-cutting nature of information and statistics in developing and supporting public policies at the national, regional and global levels, as well as in measuring the implementation of relevant international instruments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop, in consultation with Member States, technical and methodological tools to assist countries in producing and disseminating accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice, and to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States in order to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on crime and criminal justice,

Expressing concern about the large number of children and youth who may or may not be in conflict with the law but who are abandoned, neglected, abused, exploited, exposed to drug abuse and are in marginal circumstances and in general at social risk,

[11] See the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (see A/70/674).

Convinced of the importance of preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities, supporting the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law and their reintegration into society, protecting child victims and witnesses and other children at risk of such involvement and victimization, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, and addressing the needs of children in vulnerable situations, such as children of incarcerated parents, and convinced also that such holistic crime prevention and criminal justice responses should take into account the human rights and best interests of the child and a gender perspective,

Reaffirming the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[12] which emphasizes that education for all children and youth, including the eradication of illiteracy, is fundamental to the prevention of crime and corruption and to the promotion of a culture of lawfulness that supports the rule of law and human rights while respecting cultural identities, and stresses the fundamental role of youth participation in crime prevention efforts,

1. *Urges* Member States to mainstream crime prevention strategies aimed at children and youth with a gender perspective into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, including those addressing education, health, civic participation, socioeconomic opportunities, information and communications technology and public safety and security, in order to protect children and youth from social marginalization and exclusion and to reduce their risk of becoming victims or offenders;

2. *Encourages* Member States to conduct further research on the involvement of children and youth in gang-related crime and to exchange, among Member States and with relevant international and regional organizations, experiences and information on effective and relevant crime prevention programmes and policies, in order to address through innovative approaches the impact of urban crime and gang-related crime on children and youth, fostering social inclusion and employment opportunities and aiming at facilitating social reintegration of children and youth;

3. *Welcomes* the deliberations of the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session, at which the Commission endorsed the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes as an international statistical standard for the collection of data from both administrative records and statistical surveys and as an analytical tool to elicit specific information on factors driving crime, and invites Member States to continue to support the implementation of the International Classification, as appropriate, in order to improve the quality and availability of statistics on youth crime and the involvement of children in criminal activities;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to develop and implement policies with a view to preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities, promoting the use of alternative measures to judicial proceedings and to detention, where appropriate, such as diversion and restorative justice, and to consider adopting reintegration strategies for children and youth in conflict with the law, consistent with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time and that the use of pretrial detention for children, wherever possible, should be avoided, all of which can contribute to the prevention of recidivism;

[12] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

5. *Encourages* Member States to enhance capacity-building of criminal justice professionals and institutions in the area of crime prevention strategies aimed at children and youth by providing gender- and child-sensitive training to understand, recognize and effectively respond to all forms of deeply distressing or disturbing experiences of children and youth;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to enhance cooperation and coordination at all levels, including with relevant non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, in order to better identify, understand, prevent and respond to the involvement of children and youth in criminal activities, and to share information, while preserving the best interests of the child, and knowledge and best practices regarding youth crime prevention;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to continue its efforts in promoting, as necessary, the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex and age, and systematic research on particular situations of social risk and exploitation of children and youth in criminal activities in all forms and manifestations;

8. *Encourages* Member States to make full use of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime[4] and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),[6] as appropriate, in the wider context of their national economic and social policies, in order to strengthen gender-sensitive crime prevention strategies aimed at children and youth and criminal justice approaches leading to adequate responses to crime in all its forms and manifestations including emerging forms of crime;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, based on national needs and priorities, in the implementation of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice[3] through the global programme developed in this regard;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in view of its specific mandates in crime prevention and criminal justice and in terrorism prevention, to continue its work on the prevention of the recruitment and exploitation of children and youth by any violent criminal group or terrorist group;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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